

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4882

INFO USMISSIN GENEVA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1971

GENEVA FOR LOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, PFOR, EC, EFIS

SUBJ: GOE REBUTTAL TO NEWS STORIES ABOUT US/ECUADOREAN LOS TALKS

REF: A STATE 39983; B. QUITO 1317; C. QUITO 1800

1. REPEATED NEWS STORIES EMANATING FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT THE US-ECUADOREAN EXPLORATORY LOS TALKS CONDUCTED IN QUITO FEBRUARY 24-26 BY JOHN NORTON MOORE AND TOM CLINGAN HAVE NOW PROVOKED A RESPONSE FROM THE GOE APPROACHING THAT PREDICTED IN REF C, NAMELY A DENIAL. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S STATEMENT OF MARCH 19 SAID: "WITH RESPECT TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH FROM WASHINGTON PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS, IN WHICH IT IS STATED THAT 'THE UNITED STATES HAS PUT TO ECUADOR A FORMULA TO END THE PROLONGED CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES OVER FISHING RIGHTS,' THE MINISTRY OF
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FOREIGN RELATIONS CONFIRMS THAT A VISIT BY TWO STATE

DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO QUITO IN EARLY MARCH (SIC) PRESENTED THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES POSITION ON GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT LAW OF THE SEA. AS IS WELL KNOWN, ECUADOR HOLDS FIRMLY TO A THEORY OF EXCLUSIVE SOVEREIGNTY FOR COASTAL STATES UP TO A 200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA. THE FISH RESOURCES WHICH FOREIGN VESSELS SEEK TO HARVEST FROM WITHIN THIS TERRITORIAL SEA CAN BE LEGALLY TAKEN BY PURCHASING THE NECESSARY MATRICULAS AND LICENSES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FROM ECUADOREAN CONSULAR OFFICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR LUIS VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ, CHIEF OF THE ECUADOREAN DELEGATION TO THE THIRD STAGE OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN GENEVA, THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS INALTERABLY ITS NATIONAL POSITION OF FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER A TERRITORIAL SEA OF 200 MILES."

2. WHEN THE TALKS WERE UNDERTAKEN, WE AGREED WITH THE GOE THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE SAID EXCEPT TO CONFIRM THE FACT OF THE MOORE/CLINGAN MISSION (REF A). THE GOE AGREED THAT PUBLICITY SHOULD BE AVOIDED (REF B). SINCE THAT TIME THERE HAVE BEEN THE WELLES STORY IN THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR (REF C), A MAJOR STORY FILED BY GEORGE GEDDA (AP) WHICH APPEARED ON MARCH 19TH IN QUITO NEWS-PAPERS, AND OTHER BITS AND PIECES. ALTHOUGH ALL HAVE BEEN PLAYED IN A FAVORABLE LIGHT HERE, THE GOE IS BEING PLACED IN THE AWKWARD POSITION OF APPEARING TO BE BACKING DOWN ON THE "SOVEREIGNTY" ISSUE, TOWARD A COMPROMISE OF 12 MILES PLUS JURISDICTION OVER A 200-MILE ECONOMIC RESOURCE ZONE. WHILE THE GOE APPEARS (LOS DELEGATION CHIEF VALENCIA'S STATEMENT ON MARCH 14TH, REPORTED QUITO 1858) TO BE TRYING TO LEAVE ITSELF ROOM FOR NEGOTIATION, THE NEWS STORIES ABOUT THE US/GOE TALKS MAY EVENTUALLY FORCE THE GOE TO SIMPLY ANNOUNCE THAT THE PAPER MOORE AND CLINGAN PRESENTED HAS BEEN STUDIED AND THE GOE CANNOT ACCEPT PROPOSALS THEREIN AND REITERATES ITS HARD LINE INSISTING UPON ITS RIGHT TO COMPLETE SOVEREIGNTY OUT TO THE 200-MILE LIMIT.

3. FURTHER PUBLICITY WILL JEOPARDIZE OUR PROPOSAL.
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